



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE
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**NASHUA COUPLE CONVICTED FOR SELLING
COUNTERFEIT IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono reports that Fabio N. Costa and Andrea Neves-Costa pleaded guilty this morning to a 22 count indictment charging them with selling counterfeit identification documents. The defendants, who are Brazilian citizens, are married. They are both 31 years-old and reside at 9 Sapling Circle in Nashua.

Mr. Costa and Ms. Neves-Costa pleaded guilty to selling counterfeit Alien Registration Receipt cards, which are commonly referred to as “green cards,” counterfeit Social Security cards, and counterfeit alien Employment Authorization cards. Fabio N. Costa admitted to 12 counts of such sales and Andrea Neves-Costa admitted to 10 counts of such sales.

In commenting on these convictions, United States Attorney Tom Colantuono commended the dedicated work done on this case by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau of the Department of Homeland Security. He also said that, “Curtailling trafficking in counterfeit immigration and identification documents is central to our mission of protecting the United States. By cutting off the availability of counterfeit identification documents we will make it more difficult for those who are illegally in the United States and those who are intent on committing crimes within our borders to conceal their true identities and legitimize their presence in this country.”

Both Mr. Costa and Ms. Neves-Costa face maximum possible prison terms of 15 years and maximum possible fines of \$250,000 for each count. A sentencing hearing had been scheduled for July 22, 2003.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Mark S. Zuckerman.